

Appl. No. 09/800,989

Amdt. dated May 19, 2003

Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2002

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously amended): A method of increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammalian patient by administering to the patient an effective amount of a nitric oxide donor or nitric oxide agonist compound.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The method according to claim 9 wherein said administering step further includes orally administering the compound.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The method according to claim 9 wherein said administering step further includes injecting the compound.

Claim 4 (previously amended): The method according to claim 9 wherein said administering step further includes delivering the compound through a pump system directly into the portal vein.

Claim 5-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously added): The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is a nitric oxide donor compound.

Claim 10 (previously added): The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is a nitric oxide agonist compound.

Claim 11 (previously added): The method according to claim 10, wherein said administering step further includes orally administering the compound.

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Claim 12 (previously added): The method according to claim 10, wherein said administering step includes injecting the compound.

Claim 13 (previously added): The method according to claim 10, wherein said administering step further includes delivering the compound through a pump system directly into the portal vein.

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Claim 14 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition ~~of claim 5~~ useful to cause an increase in nitric oxide in the liver of a patient in need thereof, said composition comprising a nitric oxide donor compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said donor is structurally adapted to preferentially release nitric oxide in the liver.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition useful in increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammalian patient, said composition comprising an effective amount of a nitric oxide agonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said agonist is structurally adapted to preferentially release nitric oxide in the liver.

Claim 16 (previously added): A kit comprising: at least one of a nitric oxide donor or a nitric oxide agonist; and, instructions for the administration of said nitric oxide donor or nitric oxide agonist to ameliorate the symptoms of insulin resistance.

Claim 17 (previously added): The kit of claim 16, including a nitric oxide donor.

Claim 18 (previously added): The kit of claim 16, including a nitric oxide agonist.